

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 03102 172108Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
OMB-01 SAB-02 /082 W
-----049473 180729Z /21

R 172030Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7145
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 3102

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PN, BR
SUBJECT: REACTION TO SENATE DEBATE ON PANAMA CANAL TREATIES

REF: (A) STATE 95209, (B) BRASILIA 3064

1. OVER THE WEEKEND THERE WAS NO EDITORIAL COMMENT AND ONLY LIMITED STRAIGHT NEWS REPORTING ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES ISSUE. JORNAL DO BRASIL CONTINUED TO SPECULATE APRIL 15 IN A REHASH OF ARTICLES APPEARING EARLIER IN THE WEEK (REFTEL B) THAT AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE SAYRE'S CONFIRMATION WAS LINKED TO THE CANAL TREATY VOTE AND THAT HE MIGHT NOT BE CONFIRMED.
2. PRESS FOCUSED APRIL 15 ON STATEMENT BY SENATOR MCGOVERN THAT FOUR LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC SENATORS WOULD NOT VOTE FOR THE TREATY UNLESS THE US PROMISED NEVER TO INTERVENE IN PANAMANIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. JORNAL DO BRASIL REPORTED THAT SENATORS HAYAKAWA AND ABOURZEK HAVE ALSO CONDITIONED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE TREATY.
3. MOST MAJOR PAPERS APRIL 16 QUOTED TORRIJOS AS INDICATING HIS BELIEF THAT THE DECONCINI AND NUNN
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AMENDMENTS TO THE TREATY WOULD BE WITHDRAWN AND THAT
"ALL WILL END WELL."

4. JORNAL DO BRASIL APRIL 17 QUOTED COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSEN AS SAYING SENATE'S RATIFICATION OF A TREATY WITH THE AMENDMENTS ALREADY INTRODUCED
"WOULD CAUSE THE US TO VIOLATE THE OAS CHARTER, WHICH

PROHIBITS FOREIGN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY." SAME ARTICLE QUOTED TORRIJOS AS INDICATING DECONCINI RESERVATION "IS NOT ONLY DIRECTED AGAINST PANAMA BUT AGAINST ALL OF THE CONTINENT." TORRIJOS ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID PRESIDENT CARTER TOLD HIM THAT THE US HAD NO INTERNTION OF INTERFERING IN THE AFFAIRS OF SMALL COUNTRIES.

5. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO IN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN REPORTED EXTENSIVELY HIS COMMENTS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AND REASONS FOR HIS DEPARTURE FROM ARA. INTERVIEW AS REPORTED BY O ESTADO APRIL 16 CONTAINED NO REFERENCE TO CANAL TREATIES.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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